

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable device comprising:
a stepper motor;
a moveable member, moveable by the stepper motor; and
an intracorporeal oscillator,
wherein the intracorporeal oscillator is influenced by a signal directly derived from or supplied to the stepper motor to enable information on the moveable member to be feedback to an external controller by passive telemetry.

2. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said signal is the electrical signal applied to one coil of the stepper motor.

3. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said signal is the voltage induced in a secondary coil wrapped around a coil of the stepper motor.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the intracorporeal oscillator drives an absorption modulator for use in feedback of said information by passive telemetry using FM-AM modulation.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said signal modifies the frequency of the intracorporeal oscillator.

6. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein said signal is used to modify one of:
at least one parameter of a resistor-capacitor network associated with the intracorporeal oscillator; and

at least one parameter of a crystal oscillator comprising the intracorporeal oscillator.

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller for driving the stepper motor; and
~~wherein the oscillator also comprises the external an intracorporeal oscillator external to the microcontroller, wherein the intracorporeal oscillator provides for providing a clock signal to the microcontroller.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein a reference position of the moveable member is detected by a detector which is used to influence the intracorporeal oscillator.

9. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 8, wherein said detector causes a shift in frequency of said intracorporeal oscillator when the reference position is detected.

10. (Original) A device according to claim 8 wherein the detector is selected from the group consisting of: an electrical contact switch, a Hall-effect switch, a force-sensing resistor, a variable inductor, and a piezoresistive element.

11. (Original) A device according to claim 1, encapsulated into a biocompatible, non-metallic package.

12. (Original) A system comprising:
an implantable device according to claim 1, and
an external controller comprising means for counting pulses in said signal feedback by passive telemetry for determining the motion of the stepper motor and the position of the moveable member.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said external controller further comprises means for analyzing the shape of said signal to detect blockage of the stepper motor.

14. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the moveable member is structured for constricting a passageway.

15.-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an implantable device comprising:

providing the implantable device with a stepper motor, a moveable member moveable by the stepper motor, and an intracorporeal oscillator;

providing an external controller; and

causing the intracorporeal oscillator to be influenced by a signal directly derived from or supplied to the stepper motor, thereby enabling information on the moveable member to be feedback to the external controller by passive telemetry.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein causing the intracorporeal oscillator to be influenced by a signal directly derived from or supplied to the stepper motor comprises deriving the signal as the electrical signal applied to one coil of the stepper motor or as the voltage induced in a secondary coil wrapped around a coil of the stepper motor.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising causing the intracorporeal oscillator to drive an absorption modulator providing feedback of the information by passive telemetry using FM-AM modulation.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the frequency of the intracorporeal oscillator is modified by the signal.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the intracorporeal oscillator is further influenced by a detector detecting a reference position of the moveable member.